

innovation required in today's military.

The quality of his work is reflected in his own words. In a February interview with Stars and Stripes Magazine, Elliston spoke about his work with Vrbovac's residents—many of whom are just now returning after fleeing their homes. Describing his work with town residents, Elliston said, "I try to put a smile on their faces and give them hope that we will protect them."

This protection has taken many forms. One Vrbovac resident told Stars and Stripes, "Before Elliston came here, we locked all the doors. Now that [Elliston] is here we leave the doors open every night because we feel much more safe with him here." Elliston and the men and women serving with him have also been able to put an end to many killings, hijackings and kidnappings.

Elliston has also spearheaded measures to improve the quality of life in Kosovo. He has taken steps to facilitate the spread of news from the outside world to local residents and has even installed speed bumps to solve the problem of speeding vehicles.

These are but a few examples illustrating the dedication and innovation of Elliston and those serving with him. It is these qualities upon which our nation depends.

The same Vrbovac resident said of Elliston, "The people in Montana must be proud because he is a great man." I am here today to say that the people of Montana are proud. We are proud of Elliston, and we are also proud of all the other men and women who serve overseas. These sacrifice and dedication of these individuals must be recognized and I call on my colleagues in the Senate to do so.

Thank you Mr. President.●

#### BOY SCOUT EAGLE SCOUT AND GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

● Mr. JEFFORDS. I rise today to recognize the young men and women of our great nation who have earned the honor of receiving the Boy Scout Eagle Scout Award and the Girl Scout Gold Award.

As a former Boy Scout, I have a great appreciation for the duties, obligations, and benefits that Scouting offers to boys and girls. Scouting helps to shape our nation's youth into proud and civic-minded adults. Recipients of the Eagle Scout and Gold Awards not only meet the challenges presented to them, but they surpass the expectations of their leaders and their peers.

In order to receive the highest honor, each Scout must design and execute a project that will benefit others in their community. Through initiatives such as teaching music to children, hosting an educational seminar, or building a neighborhood playground facility, the recipients display selfless commitment and integrity—qualities they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

The contributions that these youth have made to their communities, and to our nation, are invaluable. Their hard work and devotion warrants great

commendation. I am grateful for this opportunity to offer my appreciation and my congratulations to the recipients of the Boy Scout Eagle Scout Award and the Girl Scout Gold Award.●

#### COMMENDING THOMAS ALESSANDRO

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise today to give praise and recognition to one of my fellow New Yorkers who has devoted his life to helping heal the wounds of crime. Thomas Alessandro recently received the Crime Victim Service Award from Attorney General Janet Reno. I rise today to echo that recognition and to briefly describe Mr. Alessandro's innovation and tireless work in this field.

The Crime Victim Service Award was given to Mr. Alessandro as part of the Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime's 20th annual observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, held this year from April 9 to April 15. This week of observance enables communities across the country to recognize the millions of Americans who have felt the burdens of crime and those who have enabled them to navigate the difficult and often complex path to justice. This highlights the efforts of Mr. Alessandro and other outstanding individuals by drawing attention to their cause, and praising all citizens of the Nation who work toward this laudable ideal. As part of this week of recognition the Attorney General awarded the Crime Victim Service award to Mr. Alessandro, four other individuals, four organizations and two families. Mr. Alessandro was selected from 110 nominees for the award because of his outstanding progress and innovation in the field of crime victim service, the highest federal award for service to victims of crime. Mr. Alessandro is a shining example of how our law enforcement officials should protect justice and help victims of injustice seek healing.

Mr. Alessandro has dedicated the last 22 years of his life to the service of crime victims. One of his most astounding innovations was the development of the Victims Aid Services into a comprehensive program addressing the needs of all crime victims who come to the New York County District Attorney's Office. Additionally, Mr. Alessandro forged many public and private sector partnerships to strive toward the goal of justice. Among these partnerships and organizational enhancements, he established a counseling department and created a child victim specialist division. These additional tools allow the New York District Attorney's Office to protect the rights of victims not only in the form of conviction of criminals, but also in the form of healing the emotional scars of the victim especially the young victim. This second step is essential to making this society healthier and safer. The counseling staff is now made up of certified clinical social workers who provide individual and group therapy for victims. It is my honor to rise

in recognition of this great man who actualizes this ideal.

In addition to counseling services, Mr. Alessandro has directed the development of new technology to increase the efficiency and availability of victim services, including protection order tracing and victim notification systems. He has forged partnerships with private sector organizations, including the AT&T Cell Phone Project, which, along with additional services, provides crime victims with 911 programmed cell phones for use in emergencies.

Mr. Alessandro's commitment to the needs of crime victims does not stop when he leaves the office. His tireless efforts continue into volunteer service. Beyond his professional role, Mr. Alessandro has been actively involved with numerous other state and local initiatives, such as the development of the New York city Victim Information and Notification System. For these accomplishments and innovations in this heroic field I rise to thank Thomas Alessandro and to draw this institution's attention to his outstanding work in this field.●

#### RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CENTRALIA COLLEGE

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I take the floor today to honor one of the oldest and top community colleges in the great state of Washington. In honor, of their 75th Anniversary, I would like to say a few words about this fine academic institution.

Centralia College serves the citizens of Southcentral Washington, offering outstanding community service programs and a high quality of student life. Centralia College, however, extends beyond traditional instruction of its students and participates in the greater-Centralia community, providing residents with informative and interesting public lectures, art shows and cultural events. Clearly, Centralia College is an integral part of the surrounding community.

Students at Centralia College study a variety of disciplines from accounting and nursing to computer and forestry technology, receiving a well-rounded education that will prepare them for a bright and challenging future.

Furthermore, Centralia College offers students an international experience. Students have the opportunity to study in a number of foreign countries or learn from the many international students that attend Centralia College. I applaud Centralia College for its commitment to expanding its students' horizons and exposing them to new ideas and different ways of life.

The faculty at Centralia College are extremely dedicated to giving their students a balanced education and emphasize the importance of critical thinking skills, writing, oral and visual communication as well as fostering in their students a sense of resourcefulness and responsibility.

I believe that the faculty's continuous hard work and dedication to these goals has made their students successful and contributing citizens of Washington state. Education is more than merely memorizing facts and Centralia College teaches its students vital problem solving and communication skills that will lead our country in the new millennium and give them a solid foundation to help Washington state continue in its prosperity.

I wish Centralia College another successful 75 years. It is institutions like Centralia College that make Washington state one of the best places to live.●

**A DRAFT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION ENTITLED THE "CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2000"—A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 104**

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit today for immediate consideration and prompt enactment the "Consumer Product Safety Commission Enhanced Enforcement Act of 2000." This legislative proposal would increase the penalties that the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) could impose upon manufacturers, distributors, and retailers of consumer products who do not inform the CPSC when the company has reason to believe it has sold a product that does not meet Federal safety standards or could otherwise create a substantial product hazard. The proposal would also improve product recalls by enabling the CPSC to choose an alternative remedy in a recall if the CPSC finds that the remedy selected by the manufacturer is not in the public interest.

Under current consumer product safety laws, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers of consumer products are required to inform the CPSC whenever they have information that one of their products: (1) fails to comply with a CPSC product safety standard; (2) contains a defect that could create a substantial product hazard; or (3) creates an unreasonable risk of serious injury or death. After a company reports this information to the CPSC, the CPSC staff initiates an investigation in cooperation with the company. If the CPSC concludes that the product presents a substantial product hazard and that a recall is in the public interest, the CPSC staff will work with the company to conduct a product safety recall. The sooner the CPSC hears about a dangerous product, the sooner the CPSC can act to remove the product from store shelves and inform con-

sumers about how to eliminate the hazard. That is why it is critical that companies inform the CPSC as soon as they are aware that one of their products may present a serious hazard to the public.

Unfortunately, in about half the cases involving the most significant hazards—where the product can cause death or serious injury—companies do not report to the CPSC. In those cases, the CPSC must get safety information from other sources, including its own investigators, consumers, or tragically, from hospital emergency room reports or death certificates. Sometimes years can pass before the CPSC learns of the product hazard, although the company may have been aware of it all along. During that time, deaths and injuries continue. Once the CPSC becomes aware of the hazard, many companies continue to be recalcitrant, and the CPSC staff must conduct its own independent investigation. This often includes finding and investigating product incidents and conducting extensive laboratory testing. This process can take a long time, which means that the most dangerous products remain on store shelves and in consumers' homes longer, placing children and families at continuing risk.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission can currently assess civil penalties against companies who fail to report a dangerous product. Criminal penalties are also available in particularly serious cases. In fact, in 1999, the CPSC assessed 10 times the amount of civil penalties assessed 10 years ago. But, even with this more vigorous enforcement, too many companies still do not report, especially in cases involving serious harm.

This legislative proposal would enhance the CPSC's civil and criminal enforcement authority. It would provide an added incentive for companies to comply with the law so that we can get dangerous products out of stores and consumers' homes more quickly.

My legislative proposal would also help to make some product recalls more effective by allowing the CPSC to choose an alternative remedy if the CPSC finds that the manufacturer's chosen remedy is not in the public interest. Under current law, a company with a defective product that is being recalled has the right to select the remedy to be offered to the public. My proposal would continue to permit the company to select the remedy in a product recall. My proposal would also, however, allow the CPSC to determine—after an opportunity for a hearing—that the remedy selected by the company is not in the public interest. The CPSC may then order the company to carry out an alternative program that is in the public interest.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission helps to keep America's children and families safe. This legislative proposal would help the CPSC be even more effective in protecting the public from dangerous products. I urge the

Congress to give this legislation prompt and favorable consideration.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 12, 2000.

**MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

At 12:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2370. An act to designate the Federal building located at 500 Pearl Street in New York City, New York, as the "Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse."

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 112. Concurrent resolution to make technical corrections in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 434.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1377) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13234 South Baltimore Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the "John J. Buchanan Post Office Building".

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 277) authorizing the use of the Capitol grounds for the Great Washington Soap Box Derby.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrent of the Senate:

H.R. 3519. An act to provide negotiations for the creation of a trust fund to be administered by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the International Development Association to combat the AIDS epidemic.

H.R. 3616. An act to reauthorize the impact aid program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4249. An act to foster cross-border cooperation and environmental cleanup in Northern Europe.

H.R. 4251. An act to amend the North Korea Threat Reduction Act of 1999 to enhance congressional oversight to nuclear transfers to North Korea, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrent of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 251. Concurrent resolution commending the Republic of Croatia for the conduct of its parliamentary and presidential elections.

H. Con. Res. 309. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress with regard to in-school personal safety education programs for children.

**ENROLLED BILL SIGNED**

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 434. An act to authorize a new trade and investment policy for sub-Saharan Africa, expend trade benefits to the countries in the Caribbean Basin, renew the generalized system of preferences, and reauthorize the trade adjustment assistance programs.